

rachel w. gammons

crossroads: explorations in librarianship & student affairs

Keep Teaching: Staying Grounded in a Crisis

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[January 2018](#)
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[August 2017](#)

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[Motherhood](#)
[#SAdoc](#)



Keep Teaching:

Staying Grounded in a Crisis

Remote Emote Virtual Conference
December 8, 2020



The following is a transcript of a keynote for the Remote Emote Online Unconference co-sponsored by Decker Library, Cook Library, and Anne Arrundel Community College Library, held on December 8, 2020. Slides and notes are available at: go.umd.edu/remoteemote

Introduction

Thank you so much for inviting me to speak with you this morning. My name is Rachel Gammons and I use she/her/hers pronouns. I am the Head of Teaching and Learning Services and the Liaison to the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland Libraries. I would like to begin by thank the Remote Emote conference organizers. This is a

Positionality

I thought I would begin by sharing my positionality, or relationality, to this topic. I identify as both a librarian and a teacher. For me, these aspects of my work are interrelated and form the foundation of my practice. My professional identities as an educator and an information professional also influence my work as a manager. I currently oversee a unit that includes two and a half librarians, two staff members, two graduate assistants, and five to ten hourly graduate students. So much of how I approach leadership and supervision is informed by work as a teacher, so I consider these three aspects of my identity - librarian, teacher, and manager, to be interdependent. I am also a student, I am a little over half way through my Ph.D. in Higher Education so in addition to navigating the challenges of COVID as teacher and a manager, I am also experiencing the other side of online education as a student. Finally, I am a parent. I have an almost two-year old named Henry, who you see on the right hand side of the slide, who has been without daycare since March. So, my contributions to this conversation today are informed by all of these identities, which have placed tension on one another at various points throughout this process.

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